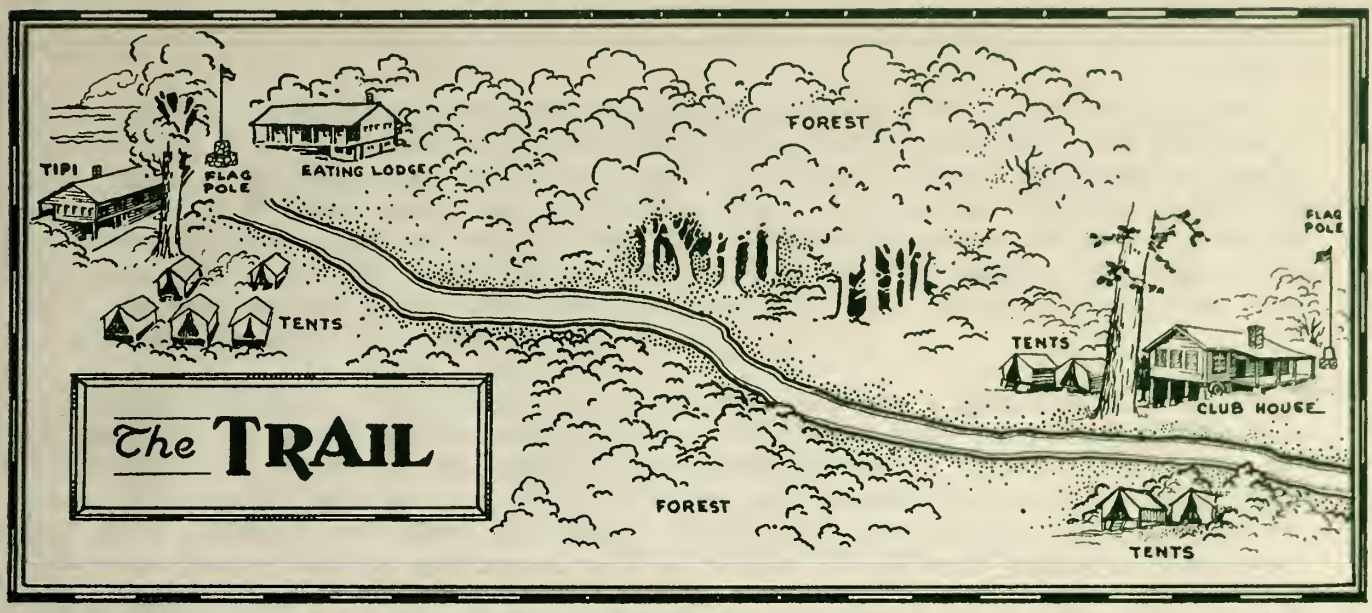

The TRAIL

Official News-Letter of the Founders' Younger Boys' Camp
The American Youth Foundation, 3713 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.

March 1937

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

Special Spring Edition of The Trail

Featuring chats with a peerless quartet of
- Miniwanca Leaders -

Garrott Allen Bob Shank
Barnett Blakemore Fred Brewster

180 COPIES

Happy Memories of LAST SUMMER! ..... Looking Forward to NEXT SUMMER!

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"Gentlemen:"

Just at present I am sitting in my little room in the Vincent Memorial Hospital in Boston where I am working. As I write, the fog is beginning to settle down over the lake here in the foreground and it is with ease that my thoughts become your thoughts ... and our memories of Miniwanca come floating back so vividly!

Time is beginning to fly and it won't be long until we will be on our way back to camp. It can't be too soon for me! Last summer was so good that we just can't help looking backwards for a few brief thoughts. Many of the interesting things that happened to all of us are now just memories of days that have built into each of us a type of living that is to become a part of us forever.

I'll bet that you fellows who learned to use the little quiet period in the early mornings are now beginning to enjoy it even more, for there is nothing finer in human relationships than to try to forget ourselves and to think of the needs of others just a little while each day.

Sometimes it takes one or two people who are less fortunate than we are to show us the riches of life that can be found in living unselfishly for others.

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This morning, seven of us made the rounds of a hospital for crippled children. Some of the little fellows will never walk again; others can walk but will be crippled for the remainder of their lives; while still others will get entirely well. One of the men asked the question - what will they do when they grow older? Dr. Swann quickly answered that if you left them as they were, he was willing to say that they would get along better than most of us ever would. The reason, he said, is because God gives them something that the rest of us have not, and that is the need to help each other to get along.

You should have seen their sparkling eyes; each one had a definite plan in his little mind as to what he was going to do. Dr. Swann told us of a boy that they had there four years ago, who was stricken with paralysis of his hips, back, and arms. By careful work and exercise he began to overcome his arm paralysis, doing so by attempting to draw and paint. Finally he got so good that he went to an art school in Boston and turned out to be one of the best students they ever had. At the present time he is very successful with his work and is supporting the rest of his family who so long looked after him.

You may ask if these aren't strange thoughts to be thinking in connection with Miniwanca. No, I don't think so. For while we are in camp we try to learn to do the most insignificant job in a glorious way. All of this we know is possible only when we begin to forget about our rewards and work for the love of doing things and for the happiness we may bring to others.

Let's for a few minutes look forward to the coming summer and camp - again!

Let us suppose it is the opening night and we are all gathered together on the porch of the Y.B. Lodge, waiting for Lloyd, Johnny, and "Cherry" to get the fire started before we seat ourselves around the fireside to organize for the 1937 bang-up start! Doesn't it make you feel good to be sitting with your old friends again and to know that with us are many new campers who will become part of our friendship circle, some to remain friends of ours throughout the rest of our life!

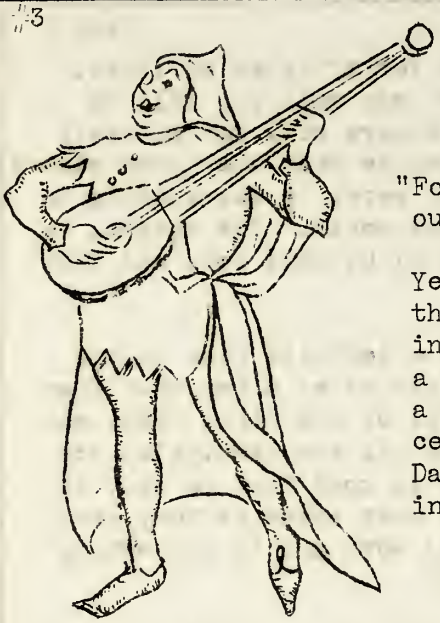
Tribes get organized and we are off! No one knows how we will come out or how we will end up! There are many new events which will give each group a new opportunity to manifest its "brain trusts," its athletes, its musicians, etc. Then there are a few new relays that some of you older birds are going to find a little challenging to your mental and physical powers. The North-hill gentlemen and the Pee-Wees have new things to look ahead to also ... so let's all be on hand for the big opening night and get off to a good start!

Wadjepi says we are going to have a new Eating Lodge in Y. B. this summer. My one objection is that when the chef gets the fires burning high and we smell the delicious aromas emanating, we won't be able to keep any of you fellows out until lunch time! There are so many fine things ahead at Miniwanca this summer ... and all of them will help us make this our biggest and best season yet!!!

So ... until June 21st ... so long, and to you all - the best o' luck!

-- Garry

REGISTRATIONS ARE CERTAINLY ROLLING IN TO THE FOUNDER OFFICE THESE DAYS!
HAS YOUR PLACE BEEN RESERVED? SEE MOTHER AND DAD!



BIG SEASON AHEAD AT CEDARSAND THEATRE

"Foiled again ... G-r-r-r-r!" ... and the villain stalked out the door, sadly beaten by the dashing hero!

Yes sir! next summer at Cedarsand we will have them all there: a real honest-to-gosh villain, a beautiful heroine (Don't you think John Doolittle would look good in a blond wig?) a dashing hero, and the old farmhouse with a mortgage on it. And have you ever seen that magnificent drama - "The Rescue of the Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter"? These are two of the plays that we are going to do next summer.

During the last few weeks

I have been gathering material for our next season at Cedarsand, and believe me, it is certainly hard to choose out of the many good things that there are to give. During the 1937 camps we will be able to do much more than we did during last summer. In the first place, we will not have to spend time building a theatre. That was a dandy job you fellows did on Cedarsand. Those logs are just naturally in there to stay a while. After camp closed, some of the leaders went down there and made a few repairs, so that when we get back to Squaw Bay in June, one or two days' work will put Cedarsand in shape.

Last summer

we made a fine start, and did we have fun! Do you remember that song that Billy Pickett sang with John Raach ... something about "Why put the shore so near the ocean"? That was on our opening night, in the vaudeville show. Those cherries that were passed out during the intermission were good, too. It isn't every theatre that takes such good care of its audience. And who could forget the Leaders' Frolic with Bob Shank as Cinderella, Garry as the Fairy Godmother in his (or was it "her") woodland costume, and Jim Bell as the heartbroken Prince, weeping over a huge old moccasin ... do you remember whose? Then there was the villain's song. I still laugh whenever I think about it. And the episode where we tried to mount Cinderella on a horse. Palmer Still and Wayne Monroe were under the "horse." You bet, we'll have another Leaders' Frolic. Perhaps "The Boston Tea Party" - or "Sinbad the Sailor." Wadjepi and Kodaya will be in it, too; they have a lot more Grand Opera for us.

We shall want to do two or three plays

of a more serious nature, too. These are harder to find but I have come across a dandy about George Washington, and another about some Pirates on the Spanish Main. I am expecting all the old hands back in the casts, and some new talent, too. Several boys told me at the end of last summer that they expect to be in the Fine Arts Department this year. We are ready for you. It is quite likely that we will have two acting groups this year: one each for the Younger

Boys and Pre-Seniors. The reason for this is that different types of plays suit different ages. But you can be sure that everyone will see all the plays we give, because they will be interesting to all of us.

The cast is not the only group I am interested in. Last summer, I tried to impress on you that the boys who work back-stage are as important as the actors. We will be needing scenery-builders and property-men. Some of you, I know, prefer that part of dramatics. One good play which we may give takes place in a crows-nest on a storm-tossed sailing ship. Here would be a real challenge for the property department: to build a crows-nest on the stage of Cedarsand and make it move like a rolling ship. What do you say, property-men?

I have talked so much about Cedarsand

that you will think that I have forgotten the rest of the Fine Arts Department, but I haven't. Ed Cherbonnier's Harmonica Band will be off to a fine start because of their work last year. We are going to have our music well organized. We need a choir for Sunday mornings and we need good singing at Assembly. By the pink-toed prophet, as Wadjepi says, we'll have them! Don't fail to bring your musical instruments to camp, even if you only play the Kazoo. After all, the Bazooka is a lowly instrument, but it makes music. Remember, what we want at Miniwanca are fellows who are willing to get up and try. Let's find out what you can do. A "nice try" is far better than no try at all. So bring your stunts and funny tricks. You will need them for Low Council. For High Councils we will continue the method started last year. All events must be ready and rehearsed a week in advance. That method raised the level of entertainment, and we want to keep it up. Be gathering ideas for stunts so that you will be able to help the Pathfinder. If I remember, John Prutton holds the prize for the best camp fire story told last year. Who will tell the best one this season?

Farther down the page there is a little letter to your mother. I wish you would be sure to show it to her.

John Raach and I will both be back at Miniwanca and we assure you that it will be the best year yet in Fine Arts. I can hardly wait for that day in June when old campers and new gather at the Lodge to organize for Miniwanca Y.B. Camps of 1937!

-- Barney

Dear Mother of a Miniwanca Camper:

This may sound like a note from the Goodwill Industries, but I am making this request in all seriousness. Since we are way out in the woods at camp, one of our serious problems in dramatics is costuming. Perhaps you can help us. Do you have any old drapes, curtain goods, remnants of bright cloth, or old dresses? Believe it or not, we can use such things to make costumes - old drapery materials are particularly valuable because they usually have color and hang well. We would appreciate it if you would send such materials along to Miniwanca when camp opens. The boys will know to bring along any costumes they have, but we need odd pieces as well. We can use almost anything. Last summer, we made a king's crown out of an old green silk hat lining and a pheasant feather which we found in the woods. Even men can be dressmakers if necessary!

Sincerely,

Barney Blakemore

THAT NEW EATING LODGE

in Boys' Camp is certainly going to be one of the most attractive buildings at Miniwanca - in more ways than one! It is being built high on the ridge overlooking Stony Lake ... Yes sir you can look out and see the dancing waves while you're eating your chicken pie! The Lodge will be of log construction with almost solid glass sides. A huge stone fireplace will add to the coziness of the room, as will the round tables where each tent group will eat in family style.

Four big electrically refrigerated rooms will keep our meats, fruits and vegetables, milk, butter, eggs, and desserts just right and we are looking forward to having the most delicious meals ever! And ... hold your breath ... not only all this but ... we hear it is Wadjepi's intention to install an ice cream manufacturing outfit ... and that means

I C E C R E A M

dessert three or four times a week ... and on special occasions ... fresh cherry pie a la mode!!!! Yes sir, that new Boys' Eating Lodge is going to be one attractive and popular place ... and as Garry says, the big problem will be to keep the fellows from just naturally drifting over that way BEFORE the chef is ready to ring that welcome ol' dinner bell!

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN

in the new Four-Way Lodge, too. That big fireplace in the center of the room is going to make it mighty cozy for indoor council circle on cool or rainy evenings.

WE DON'T WANT TO START AN ARGUMENT

between mother and dad, but knowing the propensity (nice dollar word) of his own wife for cleaning out some of her husband's much-treasured trophies, which as she says just "clutter up the place and collect dust" - it occurred to Wadjepi that there may be a lot of moose or elk heads, stuffed fish, birds, snakes, animals, etc., "cluttering and dust gathering" in the homes of some of our campers and perhaps, either by coercion or cooperative effort, mother might be able to get rid of some of this "junk" by shipping it up to Camp Miniwanca to help decorate our Four-Way Lodge. We will accept anything from a stuffed mosquito to a 642-lb. swordfish. Just pack up the bundle and parcel post it to our caretaker: Rudolph Burmeister, Camp Miniwanca, Shelby, Michigan. (Rural Route #2)

SPECIAL NOTICE

We have in our office three panoramas and fourteen group pictures which were ordered by Younger Boy Campers last summer and never claimed. Some of these pictures were paid for and some not. Any camper who ordered one of these pictures should write to the Founder office and we will mail same to you promptly. If you did not pay for your pictures, the cost is 50¢ for the group pictures (8 x 10 in.) and $1.00 for the big panorama.

... ...

JUNE 21 WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT Better mail the Founder office the names of your camp prospects before all the places are reserved.

ANNOUNCING THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE FOUNDER FAMILY

It's a new Younger Girls' Camp at Merrowvista - the eastern camp of the American Youth Foundation. Your mother and dad will want to let their eastern friends know about this opportunity to give their children the same unique brand of recreational-instructional camping that is offered at Camp Miniwanca.

CAMP MERROWVISTA for YOUNGER GIRLS

is located on Danhole Lake in the beautiful Ossipee Mountains of New Hampshire. This is the pioneer year of the Merrowvista Younger Girls' Camp and it will be limited to twenty-five to thirty campers. These lucky girls will have a real adventure ... the thrill of being pioneers ... blazing new trails and starting traditions like those which have become so much a part of the other Foundation camps. A very choice leadership staff, under the direction of Marie E. Shaver (our "Horace") will insure a delightful and profitable camping experience for each girl. The dates of the Younger Girls' Camp at Merrowvista are:

July 26 to August 22

The rates are the same as for the junior camps at Miniwanca: $100.00 for four weeks. Be sure to show this notice to your parents so they can send us the names of their friends in the East who have younger girls, 11 to 15 years of age, and who would be interested in the unique type of camping offered at Camp Merrowvista.

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A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE PRE-SENIORS

Just the other day I looked up towards the sky and half realized I was seeing something I hadn't seen for many weeks. It was old Sol and a bit of the blue sky that I was seeing. The St. Louis winter brand of skies is gray. Seeing the sun that day brought back some cheerful memories of a place where skies are always a shade bluer and the sun a bit brighter. I mean - MINIWANCA! I have always contended that the brightest skies in the world are to be found there at that camp in the sand dunes. Of course, Bob Burns would say I was wrong and that the honors should go to Arkansas - Van Buren, Arkansas. But Burns stretches his stories, you know!

Seeing the sun that day started a bit of reminiscing. I began thinking about the drills Skunk Captain Murch conducted; about the big fish Frank Lowe and his partners brought back from frequent excursions out into the lake or down the creek; about the sailboat races Jim Orwig just couldn't lose; about a Camper-Leader ball game (remember who won the first one last summer?); about beach suppers with the same old sun dropping into Lake Michigan far out from shore; about congenial moments around bright camp-fires. You know the things I was remembering. You, too, must take time now and then to recall those happy times.

The new Pre-Senior Lodge was finished shortly after the close of our camp last August. It is a real thing of beauty. Every one of you will proudly think of

the part that you had in its construction. The logs that we tussled up there have made strong walls. The gravel and water we carried went into cement to give the building a firm foundation. It is a fine lodge and is going to be the center of a lot of Pre-Senior activity and fun in the future.

The Pre-Senior Campers of last summer were pioneers. They opened up a new phase of camping at Miniwanca. Every one of us that had a part in it enjoyed it, too. We found many advantages in having our own unit of tents there on the dune top overlooking Stony Lake. Yes, and it was nice having a Pre-Senior program of our own. Certainly that class of Kodaya's was stimulating to good thinking. And with the experiences gained from this first year, new plans will be included for coming summers.

The directors of the American Youth Foundation are far-seeing and wise. Their one great ambition is to provide in a bigger and better way for their campers. In the A.Y.F. office the other day, I was told of many new plans. It was quite thrilling. You have been told, I think, about the fine new Eating Lodge. Just think of the time and steps that will be saved. The extra time can be used in swimming, crafts, and other activities. There are other improvements which are almost as interesting. Yes sir, the coming summer promises a lot for those campers returning to Miniwanca.

The new year 1937 is well along its way. I hope that every Pre-Senior has set some real honest-to-goodness, he-man goals for himself. Do you remember some of our fireside chats of last summer? There were many high ideals evidenced there. I hope that you are finding satisfaction in trying to practice some of the finer ways of living. It is my hope that each Pre-Senior is facing 1937 with his best self at his best always.

These memories of summers past in the congenial and uplifting atmosphere of MINIWANCA are pleasant. Even more pleasant is the planning to return. In less than three months another camp season begins. Will you be there? There are six weeks of the best fun ever awaiting you there!

Cheerio and good luck to each of you!

-- Bob Shank

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

Along about now it's just a bit hard to picture in your mind what MINIWANCA looked like last summer and what you can expect to find there when you come back again this summer on June 21. So we'll help you recall some of the sights and happenings of last year.

THE TIME FOR SLEIGH-RIDING

and skiing is past, but weren't there times this winter when you remembered those breath-taking swoops down Old Baldy on the toboggans, with the sand billowing out to the sides? Or were you one who used to push the 'boggans, so that you remembered sprawling full length in the damp, cool, yielding sands? And the thrill of seeing your sled carry you on past the farthest marks of the other tribes, between the two signal fires toward the fringe of trees at the foot of the dune?

THESE FIRST WARM DAYS

are just beginning to hint at the brilliant summer suns under which you'll bask in front of the Lodge, acquiring that golden tan for which you envied Bill Harding. And don't you tingle all over at the recollection of Michigan's cool breakers as they slapped at you and hoisted you up with their swell? And the appetite they gave for those succulent steaks you broiled over the driftwood fire! Reach back of your ear right now and slap that imaginary mosquito that tortured you when you were held prisoner in that exciting game of "Capture the Flag" just at dusk.

DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE

rolling out of bed these mornings when called? Remember how hastily you responded or perhaps didn't respond, to the persistent efforts of your tent leader? But out you came at last, and down to the "old" diamond to Bill Acosta's cries of "Pepper! Pepper!" and you rubbed and stretched and duck-waddled and then ran up to the flag-pole, hardly able to keep from pushing on down the hundred and three steps to the dock on Stony. And when you finally got in the water, how reluctant you were to get out again?

BY NOW

you've probably revived every detail of that daily routine, so we'll just spring some spot-questions at you: 1. What's the favorite dessert that you get at Miniwanca? 2. Who always wins the Camper-Leader ball games? 3. What was the name of John Johnson's long-legged prize-winning turtle in the Fourth of July Handicap? 4. Who else but _____ could lay claim to having eaten the most at every beach supper? 5. Name at least five songs sung on the hayrides out past Charlie Thompson's farm. 6. Who hit more home runs on the "old" ball diamond than "Young George" Bontecou? What leader of what tribe could always be counted upon to announce in a slow drawl: "I want to see all my tribe in the Craft House right after this meal?" 8. What former camper's dad took motion pictures of every activity of the day in camp and showed them to us near the end of the summer? 10. Were the watermelons or the fireworks the most attractive part of the celebration Fourth of July evening after the beach supper?

(Answers to these questions are unnecessary for last year's Y.B. bunch.)

BUT DO THESE MEMORIES

come back oftener than those of the friendly discussion groups on "Christian Ideals" every morning and the nifty instruction periods in the Craft House, with every sort of construction from bows and arrows and model catboats to linoleum block-prints and leatherette bracelets? Or do you recall more vividly those gorgeous sunsets over Lake Michigan which we watched during the evening vesper service? And the comfortable feeling of security with the world and with God when you dropped off to sleep after the sweet tones of Jim Bell's trumpet had played a well known hymn and "Taps."

HAVE YOU TAKEN

any long tramps since to compare with that seven-mile trek up the beach to Little Pointe Sable lighthouse? And the fluffy flapjacks, crisp bacon, and steaming cocoa with which we greeted the new day after a warm sleep out on the sand under the stars: have any of your breakfasts this winter tasted better?

AND DO YOU REMEMBER

the glorious mornings down on the sunny waterfront: sailing under a stiff breeze with just an exhilarating amount of "heeling"; swimming under the critical coaching of the leaders encouraging you to improve your stroke and your form on the diving board? And then, too, the gala water carnival with the twin docks decorated with balloons and lanterns, and Captain Kidd and Chris Colombo fighting it out for the possession of the "new island?"

BETTER PRACTICE THAT BACKHAND STROKE

for your tennis game. It won't be long till you'll be plunking that old ball against the backboard, or playing a hot set for the honor of your tribe in the tournament. And do you long to get back to the big concrete playground to play shuffleboard, that game in which there are no experts? 'Member Charley Anderson who learned to play just one day before he won his first match in competition? And those trick reduced courts on which you batted a rubber ball around in what was called "paddle tennis" - halfway between the real thing and ping pong.

Don't you wish sometimes that your gang knew all the songs you learned to love from Assemblies and Low Councils, so that you could sit around on rainy days at home and sing them? Have you tried teaching them these songs? And better yet, remember those exciting stories Barney used to read to us Sunday evenings in Friendly Council Circle, after we'd had our barbecue supper and were curled warmly between the legs of the fellow in the second row? They brought a quiet Sunday to a close so perfectly, and started us off on the right foot for the new week.

You must remember most of this. But come back to MINIWANCA this summer and refresh your memory.

-- Fred Brewster

Dear Younger Boy and Pre-Senior Fellows:

I know this edition of The Trail has pepped you all up for the summer and that you are eagerly looking forward to the days when school will be "out" and you can again start off on your big adventure at Camp Miniwanca.

We have always had good camps at Miniwanca but I somehow or other believe that this year is going to be one of the best we have ever had. But you cannot have a good camp unless you have good quality campers. Our old Miniwanca fellows know exactly what Miniwanca stands for and the fellows who come back this year will be ready right from the start to put their very best selves into the camp. I want every fellow also to help line up other high-grade fellows for their first year of camping at Miniwanca.

Remember, this is a leadership training camp. We are in the business of helping fellows to blue-print and plan their lives so as to be outstanding leaders in school, in church, in play, and in work. A boy who has had Miniwanca training should really have a head-start over other boys who have not had this privilege. So it's heads up, eyes on the goal, as we move forward together happily in the fine adventure of living our lives the fourfold, balanced way.

If you have not sent in your registration, do so by all means - quick!

-- Wadjepi (P. G. Orwig, Director)